

Message Text

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TAGS: SCUL PL US
SUBJ: PRESS REPORTS POLISH AMBASSADOR'S PROTEST AGAINST MOVIE
"THE END"

REF: STATE 209402

1. AUGUST 23 WARSAW DAILIES CARRY A POLISH NEWS AGENCY (PAP) REPORT, DATELINED WASHINGTON, D.C. ON THE DEMARCH PRESENTED BY POLISH AMBASSADOR SPASOWSKI TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT CONCERNING "THE END", AN AMERICAN MOVIE-WHICH CONTAINS SCENES OFFENDING POLAND, ITS NATIONAL HYMN, AND POLES LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES AS WELL AS IN OTHER COUNTRIES. THE PAP ACCOUNT CONTINUED: "A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT EXPRESSED DEEP REGRET FOR THE SCENES IN THE AFOREMENTIONED FILM OFFENSIVE TO POLAND AND TO THE POLES."

2. A "PAP JOURNALIST" (PROBABLY WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT STANISLAW GLABINSKI) PROVIDES BACKGROUND FOR POLISH READERS UNFAMILIAR WITH THE MOVIE. HE WRITES THAT "THE FILM IS EXCEPTIONALLY COARSE SLANDER AND IS MEANT FOR A PUBLIC WITH THE MOST PRIMITIVE TASTES."
THE CORRESPONDENT REPEATS ONE OF THE POLISH JOKES TOLD IN THE MOVIE ("Q. WHAT IS THE THINNEST BOOK
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PAGE 02 WARSAW 07396 241901Z

IN THE WORLD? A: THE ONE WHICH DEALS WITH THE CONTRIBUTION OF POLES TO CULTURE."), AND ADDS THAT "ANOTHER 'JOKE' IN THE FILM INSULTS THE POLISH NATIONAL HYMN IN A WAY SO VULGAR THAT IT CANNOT BE REPEATED IN PRINT."

3. THE PAP REPORTER SAYS THAT REPRESENTATIVE OF

AMERICAN POLONIA HAVE FILED NUMEROUS PROTESTED
BUT "THEY WERE REJECTED -- THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
OF WISCONSIN, MAKING SUCH A DECISION, REFERRED TO...
CONSTITUTIONAL PRINCIPLES. IT SEEMS, HOWEVER, THAT
THE NORMS OF COOPERATIVE LIFE BETWEEN PEOPLE AND
GROUPS BASED ON MUTUAL RESPECT OF DIGNITY, MORNS
WIDELY ACCEPTED BY CIVILIZED SOCIETY, ARE NOT CON-
TRADICTORY WITH IT (THE CONSTITUTION). IT
IS POSSIBLE TO SAY WITH CERTAINLY THAT IN POLAND
THE DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIAL THAT WOULD INSULT THE
HYMN OF ANY PEOPLE IS UNTHINKABLE."
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